# ROSS, DIXON & BELL, LLP

550 West B Street, Suite 400 • San Diego, CA 92101-3599 • p (619) 235-4040 f (619) 231-8796

JASON S. HARTLEY DIRECT DIAL: (619) 235-4040 EMAIL: JHARTLEY@RDBLAW.COM

SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE FOR VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (Cal Health & Saf. Code §§ 25249.5 et seq.) ("Proposition 65")

February 8, 2008

Mr. Gregg Steinhafel
President;
Mr. Bob Ulrich
CEO
Target Corporation
1000 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Consumer Product Exposure to Lead

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter constitutes notice that Target Corporation ("Target") has violated and continues to violate provisions of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.5 et seq. ("Proposition 65"). Specifically, this entity has violated and continues to violate the warning requirement of § 25249.6 of the California Health and Safety Code, which provides, "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual..." This notice satisfies a prerequisite for Daniel Estes to commence an action against Target in any Superior Court of California to enforce Proposition 65. The violations addressed by this notice have occurred in at least the following California counties: Humboldt; Shasta; Butte; Yuba; Placer; El Dorado; Sacramento; Yolo; Napa; Sonoma; Solano; Marin; Contra Costa; San Joaquin; San Francisco; Alameda; San Mateo; Santa Clara; Stanislaus; Merced; San Benito; Fresno; Monterrey; Kinas; Tulare; San Luis Obispo; Kern; San Bernardino; Santa Barbara; Ventura; Los Angeles; Orange; Riverside; San Diego and Imperial.

Daniel Estes is serving this notice upon each person or entity responsible for the alleged violations, the California Attorney General, the district attorney for every county where the alleged violations occurred, and the City Attorney for every city with a population (according to

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the most recent decennial census) of over 750,000 located within counties where the alleged violations occurred.

By serving this notice, Daniel Estes is acting "in the public interest" pursuant to Proposition 65. Target may contact Daniel Estes, P.O. Box 1252, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067, telephone number (760)728-5536 through his attorneys, Jason Hartley, Esq., 550 West B St., Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92101, telephone number (619) 235-4040.

Attached to this notice is a copy of "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary." This summary provides general information about Proposition 65.

From a moment currently unknown to the public, and continuing to the present, Target and/or its predecessor entity or entities have caused consumer product exposure to the carcinogen lead. Lead has been listed by the Governor of the State of California as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity and has been so listed for more than twelve months. Specifically, Target sells flatware and other tableware that contain lead to consumers throughout California. The principal route of exposure to lead is through ingestion of consumables that came in contact with said flatware and other tableware. There may also be a risk of dermal exposure or exposure through inhalation if a lead-containing product is broken or destroyed. The location of the alleged exposures are varied, occurring within several counties of the state of California

Accordingly, Target, which has ten or more employees, has knowingly and intentionally exposed, and continues to expose, California consumers to concentrations of lead that exceed safe harbor levels without first providing clear and reasonable warnings as required by Proposition 65. Target was and is required to provide clear and reasonable warnings to all customers who purchase flatware or other tableware that contain excessive amounts of lead stating that such products contain chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code §25249.7(d)(1), the undersigned counsel hereby include the attached Certificate of Merit, which states that the undersigned counsel have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has or have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this notice, and that, based on that information, the undersigned counsel believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case. Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of this Certificate of Merit is included with the notice that is served on the Attorney General and is provided to that office in confidence and is not to be disclosed except according to law.

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Daniel Estes intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit against the violator named herein unless the alleged violator enters into a binding written agreement to remedy the violations alleged herein by: (1) recalling products already sold; (2) providing a clear and reasonable warning for products sold in the future or

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reformulating such products to eliminate the lead exposure; (3) paying an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(b); (4) paying attorneys' fees; and (5) providing for third party testing all flatware and/or tableware Target sells for lead exposure. If the alleged violator is interested in resolving this dispute without resort to litigation, please feel free to contact Daniel Estes through his counsel identified below. It should be noted that Daniel Estes cannot: (1) finalize any settlement until after the 60-day notice period has expired; nor (2) speak for the Attorney General or any District Attorney or City Attorney who received this 60-day notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with Daniel Estes will resolve his claims, such agreement may not satisfy the public prosecutors.

Through this notice, Daniel Estes provides Target and the appropriate government authorities notice of his intent to sue 60 days prior to the commencement of an action. In the absence of any action by the appropriate governmental authorities within 60 days of the sending of this notice, Daniel Estes may file suit.

Sincerely,

Jason S. Hartley

\*ROSS, DIXON & BELL, LLP 550 West B Street, Suite 400

San Diego, CA 92101

Tel: (619) 235-4040

cc:

Attachments

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

## I, Daniel Estes hereby declare:

- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the party(s) identified in the notice(s) has violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2. I am the attorney for the noticing party.
- 3. I have consulted with at least one person with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.
- 4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- 5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: February <u>\$\fematexstyle{X}\$</u>, 2008

Bv:

: Jason Hartle

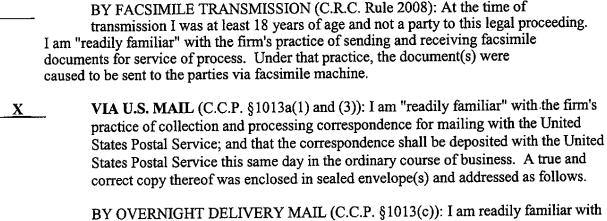
#### PROOF OF SERVICE

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

I am employed in the County of San Diego, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 550 West B Street, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92101. On February 11, 2008, I served a copy of the following documents described as follows:

- NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 DATED 2/8/08 TO See Attached Distribution List FROM Jason Hartley, Esq.
- THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY (only sent to alleged violators)
- CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (attachments only sent to California Attorney General's Office)



the practice of this firm for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing by FedEx. Pursuant to this practice, correspondence would be deposited in the a FedEx pickup location in San Diego, California in the ordinary course of business on the date of this declaration. A true and correct copy thereof was enclosed in sealed envelope(s) and addressed as follows.

### SEE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. Executed on February 11, 2008 at San Diego, California.

Jennifer Husar

# **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
ALAMEDA COUNTY	HUMBOLDT COUNTY	MERCED COUNTY
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900	825 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	2222 M Street
Oakland, CA 94612	Eureka, CA 95501	Merced, CA 95340
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
BUTTE COUNTY	HUMBOLDT COUNTY	MONTEREY COUNTY
25 County Center Drive	825 5 <sup>th</sup> Street	240 Church Street, #101
Oroville, CA 95965	Eureka, CA 95501	Salinas, CA 93901
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	KERN COUNTY	ORANGE COUNTY
PO Box 670	1215 Truxtun Avenue	401 Civic Center Drive
Martinez, CA 94553	Bakersfield, CA 93301	Santa Ana, CA 92701
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
FRESNO COUNTY	MARIN COUNTY	RIVERSIDE COUNTY
2220 Tulare Street. #1000	3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130	4075 Main Street
Fresno, CA 93721	San Rafael, CA 94903	Riverside, CA 92501
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
IMPERIAL COUNTY	NAPA COUNTY	SAN BERNARDINO
939 West Main Street	931 Parkway Mall	COUNTY
El Centro, CA 92243	Napa, CA 94559	316 N. Mountain View Avenue
		San Bernardino, CA 92415
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
KINGS COUNTY	PLACER COUNTY	SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
1400 West Lacey Blvd.	11562 B Avenue	P.O. BOX 990
Hanford, CA 93230	Auburn, CA 95603	Stockton, CA 95201
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	SACRAMENTO COUNTY	SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
210 West Temple Street, Ste. 18000	901 G Street	1105 Santa Barbara Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012	Sacramento, CA 95814	Santa Barbara, CA 93101
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SAN BENITO COUNTY	SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY	SAN MATEO COUNTY
419 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Second Floor	880 Bryant Street, Room 325	400 County Center, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
Hollister, CA 95023-3801	San Francisco, CA 94103	Redwood City, CA 94063
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY	SANTA CLARA COUNTY
330 W. Broadway, STE. 1320	County Govt. Ctr, 4 <sup>th</sup> FL Annex	W. Hedding Street, West Wing
San Diego, CA 92101	San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	San Jose, CA 95110
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District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SHASTA COUNTY	SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	SONOMA COUNTY
1525 Court Street, Third Floor	701 Ocean Street, Room 200	600 Administration Drive
Redding, CA 96001-1632	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	Room 2121
3,		Santa Rosa, CA 95403
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SOLANO COUNTY	STANISLAUS COUNTY	TULARE COUNTY
675 Texas Street, Suite 4500	800 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200	221 South Mooney Blvd., Ste
Fairfield, CA 94533	P.O. Box 442	224
,	Modesto, CA 95353	Visalia, CA 93921
District Attorney	District Attorney	City Attorney
VENTURA COUNTY	YOLO COUNTY	CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
800 South Victora Avenue	301 Second Street	City Hall, Room 234
Ventura, CA 93009	Woodland, CA 95695	San Francisco, CA 94102
District Attorney	City Attorney	City Attorney
YUBA COUNTY	CITY OF LOS ANGELES	CITY OF SAN DIEGO
215 Fifth Street	200 N. Main Street	1200 Third Avenue, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
Marysville, CA 95901	Los Angeles, CA 90012	San Diego, CA 92101
City Attorney	Attorney General of California	Mr. Gregg Steinhafel
CITY OF SAN JOSE	Prop. 65 Enforcement Reporting	President;
151 W. Mission St.	Attention:	Mr. Bob Ulrich
San Jose, CA 95110	Prop. 65 Coordinator	CEO
·	1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000	Target Corporation
	P.O. Box 70550	1000 Nicollet Mall
	Oakland, CA 94612-0550	Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403